

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
Progress To Date
July 2006

- Governor Schwarzenegger signed the Executive Order on June 24, 2005 in Fresno establishing the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The Executive Order directed 8 Cabinet Secretaries to work with elected officials and civic leaders to develop a Strategic Action Proposal by November 2006 for long-term well-being and economic prosperity in the San Joaquin Valley.
- The full 26 Partnership Board Members were appointed in September and the first Board Meeting was held September 16th in Stockton at the University of the Pacific. At the first meeting, the Board adopted a Work Plan and established ten Work Groups to focus on: Economic Development; Higher Education and Workforce Development; K-12 Education; Transportation; Land Use, Agriculture and Housing; Air Quality; Water; Energy; Health and Human Services; and Advanced Telecommunications and Information Technology. More than 300 civic leaders from the San Joaquin Valley are participating in the Partnership Work Groups which are convened by Board Members.
- The Partnership Board has met 7 times and has convened Public Forums and Local Elected Officials' Roundtables in each of the 8 counties to obtain public input on the preparation of the Strategic Action Proposal required by the Executive Order. San Joaquin Valley legislators and members of Congress have been invited to kick-off the Public Forums. More than 500 people participated in the Public Forums.
- To date the Partnership has resulted in several actions to benefit the San Joaquin Valley:
 - ✓ The California Transportation Commission accelerated funding to begin construction of Highway 205 in San Joaquin County and construction of the Mission Avenue Interchange at Highway 99 in Merced County.

- ✓ The Housing and Community Development Department awarded one of three new Enterprise Zones for Modesto and Stanislaus County.
- ✓ The Business Plan for improving Highway 99 (274 miles between Bakersfield and Stockton) was completed on time in December and accepted by the Partnership Board. The total cost is projected to be \$6 billion and includes a strategy for Highway 99 to not only continue as a “main street” of the San Joaquin Valley and a backbone of the State’s transportation system, but also to be a gateway for tourism in the San Joaquin Valley using state-of-the-art information technology at rest stops.
- ✓ The Governor and the Legislature earmarked \$1 billion from the General Obligation Bonds to jumpstart Highway 99 improvements.
- ✓ The Great Valley Center and Caltrans cooperated on an international competition to invite innovative proposals for design of “GreenStops” (environmentally-friendly, resource-conserving, high-tech rest stops) along H99. This will become a signature design signature feature for H99 as the “main street” of the San Joaquin Valley.
- ✓ The 8 counties joined forces to develop an integrated Regional Blueprint Plan and were awarded \$2 million for the first year.
- ✓ The Partnership facilitated agreement among the Economic Development Organizations and Workforce Investment Boards to target key industry clusters to promote and develop workforce: Agriculture, Manufacturing (including Food Processing and Construction Materials), Health and Medical Care, Goods Movement and Logistics, Information Processing, and Renewable Energy (including Biofuels). Regional public-private collaboratives involving employers will be established to focus on each opportunity.
- ✓ The Partnership and the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California developed the Central Valley Nursing Education Consortium to increase the number of annual Registered Nurse graduates by at least 250 individuals beginning in 2008.

- ✓ The Partnership studied and endorsed the establishment of a Medical Education Program at UC Merced and the development of an innovative healthcare network through the San Joaquin Valley.
 - ✓ The Department of Managed Health Care and Department of Insurance awarded \$5 million to UC Merced for the development of a Medical Education Program (from a fund established as a condition of the United Health Group and PacifiCare Health Systems merger).
 - ✓ AT&T provided \$600,000 to connect and train residents of Pixley as a pilot for deployment of high-speed information technology in the San Joaquin Valley.
 - ✓ The Partnership developed and adopted a plan of action for achieving air quality compliance by 2013, including supporting in concept the establishment of “air quality mitigation zones.”
 - ✓ The Secretary of Education has convened all 8 elected County Superintendents of Education to launch an initiative to improve education performance. And, the Partnership has endorsed reforms to increase K-12 school accountability and to improve education performance.
 - ✓ The Resources Agency and Department of State Parks conducted an assessment of needs coupled with an extensive outreach effort and announced plans for significantly increasing State Parks in the San Joaquin Valley to celebrate its natural heritage.
- The Partnership Board will meet on September 14-15 in Bakersfield to approve a Draft Strategic Action Proposal which then will be released for public comment. The Partnership will meet on October 26-27 in Fresno to adopt the Strategic Action Proposal for submission to the Governor.
 - The Governor proposed \$5 million in the FY 06-07 Budget May Revise to begin implementation of the Strategic Action Proposal. The Legislature agreed and the funding was signed into law by the Governor, continuing this unprecedented commitment to the San Joaquin Valley.